

Assistant Director, O/RR

1 August 1952

Chief, Economic Services Division

Adequacy of Intelligence Coverage on Bulgaria and Southern Rumania

1. In compliance with your request, I furnish herewith a tabulation showing the intelligence coverage for the above areas on those subjects covered by us that seem to have any importance to the industrial and military strength of the Orbit. For the areas covered, questions of population, governmental organizations, certain media of transportation and electric power do not seem to have any great importance in relation to the Orbit as a whole, and therefore these are not discussed.

2. Intelligence coverage on rail for Bulgarian and Southern Rumanian transportation amounts to 2 or 3 reports per month in 1952 as compared with about 5 monthly in 1951. The reports are uninformative and misleading in quality and reliability. All United States sources that have been thought to have any information have been exploited, but it is possible that information of value could still be obtained

Information is lacking on almost any aspect of railroad intelligence with primary gaps in traffic volume, rolling stock inventories and condition, and network development. The strategic importance of the railroads in case of war would be high but the contribution in time of peace to the Orbit is quite minor.

3. As regards trade, Bulgaria and Rumania are of only minor importance to the Orbit, except for petroleum, and their trade with the West is small. Very complete data on East-West trade can be derived from Western statistics, and these are supplemented by from 100 to 200 reports per month dealing mainly with individual transactions. Intra-bloc trade, which is perhaps 10 times as large as East-West trade, is the subject of 5 to 10 reports per month at present. Fairly complete information is available through 1948 but current information is fragmentary, although sometimes the quality is good. Except for the petroleum trade, the area is more a drain upon the USSR than a source of economic strength. There are perhaps 5 reports a month dealing with commercial and exchange policies and intra-bloc agreements. Reports on finance are almost completely lacking. Washington sources are thought to have been fully exploited but information of value might possibly be obtained

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4. Construction would be an unimportant item for the area were it not for existence of airfields and transportation facilities important in case of war. About 5 reports a month are received on construction, mainly dealing with hydro-electric and industrial plants, but with reports on airfields or on transportation facilities coming in at infrequent intervals. Reports seem to be in about the same volume now as in 1951 and the quality of data given is satisfactory and the reliability seems good. There are no known unexploited sources except possibly [REDACTED]

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